

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An apparatus for facilitating transdermal delivery of therapeutic substances, said apparatus comprising:

an electromagnetic field generative device;

a control device arranged to control said field generating device to alternately produce active and substantially inactive electromagnetic field portions, each said active electromagnetic field portion including an electromagnetic field packet having a plurality of successive electromagnetic field pulses, each said substantially inactive electromagnetic field portion including no electromagnetic field pulses, and the time between successive electromagnetic field packets being greater than the time between successive electromagnetic field pulses.

2. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic field generating device comprises a solid state switching device.

3. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the control device is arranged to produce an energisation signal useable to control switching of the solid state switching device, each energisation signal packet including an active energisation signal portion including a plurality of energisation signal pulses and a substantially inactive energisation signal portion including no signal pulses.

4. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least some of the signal pulses are of generally rectangular configuration.

5. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic field generating device includes a coil.

6. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the solid state switching device comprises a transistor.

7. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control device comprises a microcontroller.

8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the microcontroller is programmable by a user so that an electromagnetic signal corresponding to a predetermined therapeutic substance delivery plan is produced.

9. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the microcontroller is programmed such that dermal permeability is increased at one or more specific times.

10. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the microcontroller is programmed such that dermal permeability is increased for a specific period of time.

11. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the energisation signal packet repeats at a frequency of between 1Hz and 100Hz.

12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the energisation signal packet repeats at a frequency of between 10Hz and 50Hz.

13. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein each energisation signal packet includes between 12 and 20 energisation signal pulses.

14. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the duration of each energisation pulse is between 1 μ s and 1s.

15. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the duration of each energisation pulse is between 25 μ s and 100ms.

16. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a substantially flat member having the electromagnetic field generating device and the control device embedded therein.

17. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the therapeutic substance is disposed on an outwardly facing surface of the apparatus.

18. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the therapeutic substance is a drug, vaccine, ion, macromolecule, DNA fragment or gene.

19. (Original) A method of transdermally delivering therapeutic substances, said method comprising:

producing an electromagnetic field;

directing the electromagnetic field at a desired treatment area of a patient's skin;
and

controlling the electromagnetic field so as to alternately produce active and substantially inactive electromagnetic field portions, each said active electromagnetic field portion including an electromagnetic field packet having a plurality of successive electromagnetic field pulses, each said substantially inactive electromagnetic field portion including no electromagnetic field pulses, and the time between successive electromagnetic field packets being greater than the time between successive electromagnetic field pulses.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of controlling the electromagnetic field comprises producing an energisation signal useable to control switching of a solid state switching device, each energisation signal packet including an active energisation signal portion including a plurality of energisation signal pulses and a substantially inactive energisation signal portion including no signal pulses.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least some of the signal pulses are of generally rectangular configuration.

22. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of producing an electromagnetic field comprises energizing a coil.

23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the solid state switching device comprises a transistor.

24. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the control means comprises a microcontroller.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising the step of programming the microcontroller so that during use an electromagnetic signal corresponding to a predetermined therapeutic substance delivery plan is produced.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising the step of programming the microcontroller such that dermal permeability is increased at one or more specific times.

27. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising the step of programming the microcontroller such that dermal permeability is increased for a specific period of time.

28. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the energisation signal packet repeats at a frequency of between 1Hz and 100Hz.

29. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the energisation signal packet repeats at a frequency of between 10Hz and 50Hz.

30. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein each energisation signal packet includes between 12 and 20 energisation signal pulses.

31. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the duration of each energisation pulse is between 1 μ s and 1s.

32. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the duration of each energisation pulse is between 25 μ s and 100ms.

33. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the therapeutic substance is a drug, vaccine, ion, macromolecule, DNA fragment or gene.

34. (New) An apparatus for facilitating transdermal delivery of therapeutic substances, said apparatus comprising:

an electromagnetic field generative device including a solid state switching device coupled to a coil, the solid state switching device being operative to energize the coil with direct current to selectively produce an electromagnetic field;

a control device coupled to the solid state switching device to control said field generating device to alternately produce active and substantially inactive electromagnetic field portions by selectively energizing the coil, each said active electromagnetic field portion including an electromagnetic field packet having a plurality of successive, generally rectangularly-shaped electromagnetic field pulses, each said substantially inactive electromagnetic field portion including no electromagnetic field pulses, and the time between successive electromagnetic field packets being greater than the time between successive electromagnetic field pulses.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the control device comprises a microcontroller programmable by a user so that an electromagnetic signal pattern corresponding to a predetermined therapeutic substance delivery plan is produced.